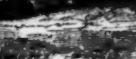


HORSE.

move within after in position, as the book moved off, slowly, gradually, constantly, till the limit of its power was reached, and this limit, it need not be said, was the distance of the object, the object now indistinct in the distance. How long it takes approaching it; how very slowly it takes approaching it, how advanced, until it stands forth, and then, how fast it comes, at the rate of ninety miles an hour, towards the same object. How rapid must be the adjustment of its eyes compared with ours!—But these are among the moderate exhibitions of a bird's visual powers. How much more rapid must be so swift, that our eyes cannot follow it, and settles, as light as a feather, upon a twig. We do not know how far off it discovered the twig; but, at whatever distance it was first brought to the eye, it was so near, that it was itself during the fraction of a second that the bird was flying; and the twig was a focus at the instant the bird alighted upon it. Were we to move with the same velocity, our eyes would fail us; as they could not accommodate themselves to such quick changes. A hawk darts through a thick clump of bushes in heedless pursuit of its prey. Think you it reaches blindly, taking the chances of escaping the close set obstacles in its way if it comes to them? No, it knows what it comes to, and overcomes them all.



results of their introduction into these two sections of the United States.

[We have received a communication from E. DILLON, Esq., which we shall be happy to lay before our readers at an early day.

E. D.

Observe an eagle circling in the air. He is soaring aloft higher and higher, till he becomes to us but a speck against the blue expanse. As he turns toward the sun, a signal is made, and quick as thought obedient servants attend the summons. The nictitating membrane, asleep in its corner, starts up and spreads over the cornea in an instant. The quivering iris, ever on the alert, enfolds the crystalline lens in a close embrace, and the tranquillity of the retina is undisturbed. As he turns away, the enemy no longer harasses, and the guards retire. Now the great bird prepares to scan the ground below. His eye lies loosely in its socket; the muscles relax; the marsupium lies torpid; the lens fall back; the cornea sinks; the water expands; all are quiet. The retina glows and thrills with excitement, and the eye now far-sighted;—desires an object of less than himself, than himself, even from this vast height, and makes ready for the fearful plunge.

Written for the Massachusetts Ploughman

A BIRD'S VISION

FROM BIRD'S EYE VIEWS.

If we hold a dying bird in our hands and observe that just as the last convulsive shiver passes, the bird's head is thrown back and the beak is raised, it is the bird's uprising of the lower lid. Here, at the outset, is one difference between the eye of a bird and that of a mammal. The movements of the upper lid, in almost all birds, are more restricted than those of the lower. There are few exceptions to this rule, and these chiefly furnished by the Ooia, Whip-poor-wills, Night Hawks, &c. Both lids are composed of common skin externally, but the lower lid is composed of a layer of fibrous tissue, interspersed for greater strength. Besides these tissues, the lower lid has also a smooth oval plate of cartilage to stiffen it.

When the eye when wide open, appears almost perfectly circular; there are no well marked corners or angles (*santhi*) in front of the eyeballs as in man and most mammals, but the beak is in the position of the Bird's Hand, and the

Miscellaneous.

AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY AND
THE SOUTH.

have two series of short modified feathers along the edges of the eyelids, that may be

compared to the hairs found in this situation in mammalia.

Now let us separate the lids and look at the eye. "Yet!" "Oh the twinkling of an eye!" a third lid is disclosed inside the other two, throwing a veil over the ball.— This third inner membrane is the nictitating membrane (*membrana nictitans*), a very curious structure, and with several important functions. It is a very thin, delicate, elastic membrane, transparent, or nearly so, of a delicate, pearly white color. While the other two membranes are closed, it lies flat against the eye, moving vertically, and has a horizontal contraction, except at the outer corner, where, usually, or a little obliquely across the front of the ball, from the side next the beak to the outer one. When not in action, it lies flat against the eye, and its anterior corner of the orbit "when wanted" is pulled over the eye by the action of two muscles that grow on the back of the ball.

We understand the mechanism of the nictitating membrane better than we do its use. Birds are not the only animals that possess it; but it might be expected from its name. If we

One of the strongest indications we have of the attitude of the South toward the affairs of the North is the agricultural activity which everywhere prevails. In the planting season all the available hands are being put to work in the fields, and for planting large areas with grain and other crops. The planting season is now a favorable one for the South, and it will unquestionably be larger than that of the North. The planting season is now about their agricultural work this year, and they are more cheerful and eager than the North. The South is now in a position where they can see that the best thing they can do is to "let the dead pass by their dead." The good prices for cotton and other crops, the success of the planting season, and the result of the Presidential election have been the principal causes which have led to this attitude. The present indications are that the majority of the Southern people have concluded that the best thing they can do is to "let the dead pass by their dead," and that they will yield better returns than abusing the government and associating loyal whites with the negroes. The present indications are that the majority of the Southern people have concluded that the best thing they can do is to "let the dead pass by their dead," and that they will yield better returns than abusing the government and associating loyal whites with the negroes. The present indications are that the majority of the Southern people have concluded that the best thing they can do is to "let the dead pass by their dead," and that they will yield better returns than abusing the government and associating loyal whites with the negroes.

menace a bird's eye with the finger, we see that the nictitating is the first of the lids to

rush to its defence. But the membrane is believed to be chiefly subservient to regulating the amount of light to be admitted to the eye. The eye of the ostrich can soar aloft directly in the sun's rays, by drawing this covering over its eyes. Owls habitually sit, during the daytime, with drawn eyelids, to shut out the glare of light. It is also quite probable that the membrane is that which is so much irritated by the rays that are rapid flyers, make great use of this germ to which the eye would be exposed in their dashy career; a screen is placed before the eye, and the membrane is soothed by the rays of the outer lids would, oppose the entrance of any particles of matter.

Three lids of the casket that holds the gem have been raised, and yet there is still much to be seen. The membrane is very delicate, filmy membrane, not very apparent on ordinary inspection, is laid over the front of the ball, from around which it is reflected over and on the inside of the two other lids. The membrane is so thin that because it joins the lids to the ball. It is a highly vascular tissue, with numerous

From Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and Alabama, there is but one report in regard to agricultural products. Georgia states that there will be four times as much grain planted there as last year, and at least an equal quantity of cotton. The cotton as last year, and in Louisiana the cotton and sugar planters are preparing for extensive business. Laborers are in demand, but they are glad to get all the labor they can find. The Government is not sufficient for their purposes. The agricultural capabilities of the South are immense, and only the determination of the people to devote themselves to their legitimate business, and the Government necessary to secure the South for our republic a source of success and prosperity unparalleled in the history of any country. Louisiana has the largest sugar crop ever made in this country, and the South has the most things for export than any other nation, and with all sections of our republic united in upholding the principles of republicanism and in developing the resources of the South, the South will be sure of abundant wealth and prosperity in the future, and of a permanent and enviable place among the nations. *Journal*

Putting together all that we know of the

operation of a bird's eye, and from this inference we know things that we do not know, we are irresistibly led to the conclusion that all the essential qualities of a bird's eye are appropriate to produce its greatest physiological phenomenon, *its greatest, necessary adjustment*.

FEEDING AND FEED FOR PIGS.

Mr. R. S. G. Stern, a celebrated English breeder of pigs, describes his management of them as follows :

"Pigs eat the food much better when it is fresh. I give them a variety of meal, such as wheat, maize, barley, and whatever is most convenient to mix together. I have it all wetted with cold water, and then scald it with boiling water, and sprinkle it with salt. What is mixed in this way is used the next day. It takes sufficient time to allow the food to become slightly fermented, and cool sufficiently to feed with. This is my winter plan, but in summer I mix all with cold water, and feed with cold food. Before the meals I give them whole wheat and mangel wurzel, and feed also, a small, little coal and soil occasionally, to allow them plenty of clean water. When pigs are put up for fattening, I find nothing better to feed them with than barley and mangel."

far or near, all alike rush into focus. With our own eyes we see at once a book

before us, and a large object in the distance. Push the book away by degrees; the letters run into words, words into lines, lines into paragraphs, paragraphs into a solid page of dark, surrounded by a white border; then the edges of the cover gain a film, the outlines soften, the thing becomes a spot, and finally disappears. If a bird were in our place it would still see letters long after they had disappeared from our view. Its eye would change in shape, and the struc-

meat mixed together and chop it up and keep by them, and a little mangel cut for them occasionally. It is very beneficial to wash and brush them as often as convenient. This is quickly done by experienced hands and will amply repay the trouble. I am certain that the cottagers would find their pigs fatten a great deal faster if they would wash and brush them, and feed them with warm food, instead of with food all ice, and that they would be well paid for any little extra trouble it might cause them. They should also be fed two or three times a day. Good bred and well fed store pigs will always consume the refuse which a bad bred one would refuse."

[illegible]

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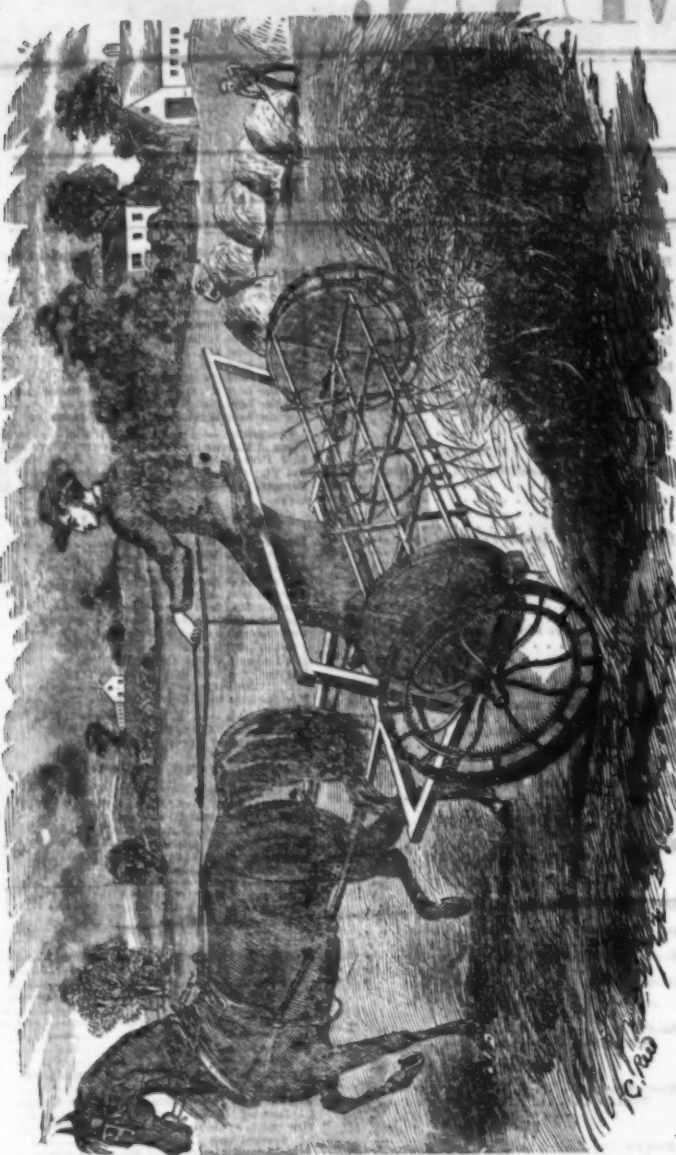
MUSICAL FESTIVAL,

TO BE HELD IN THE

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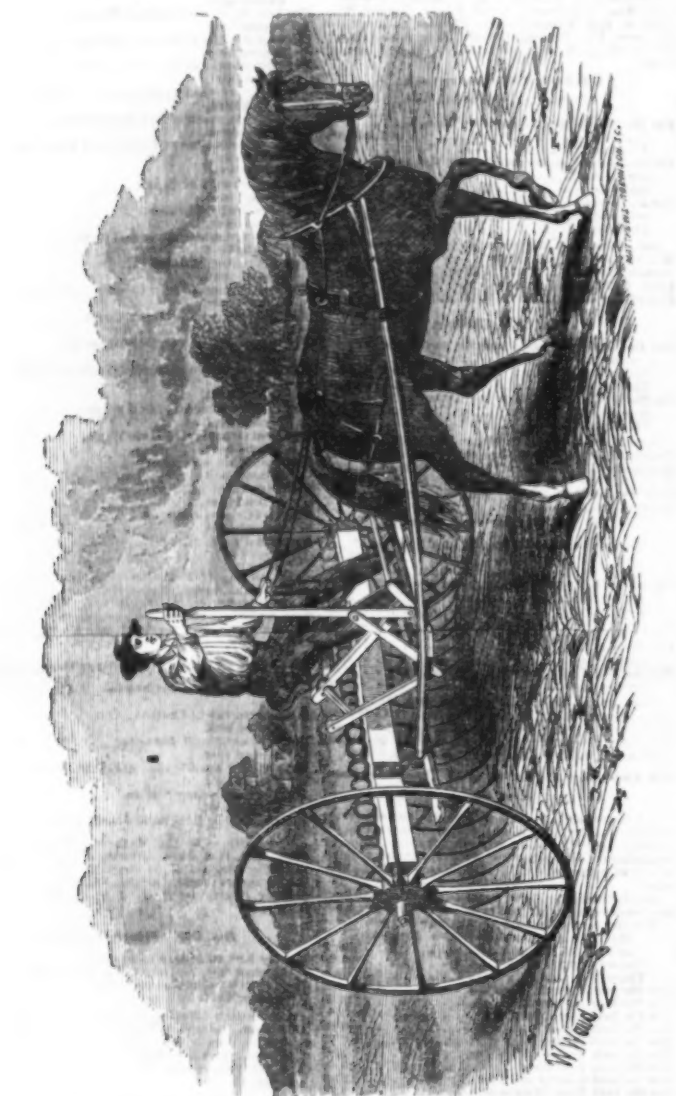
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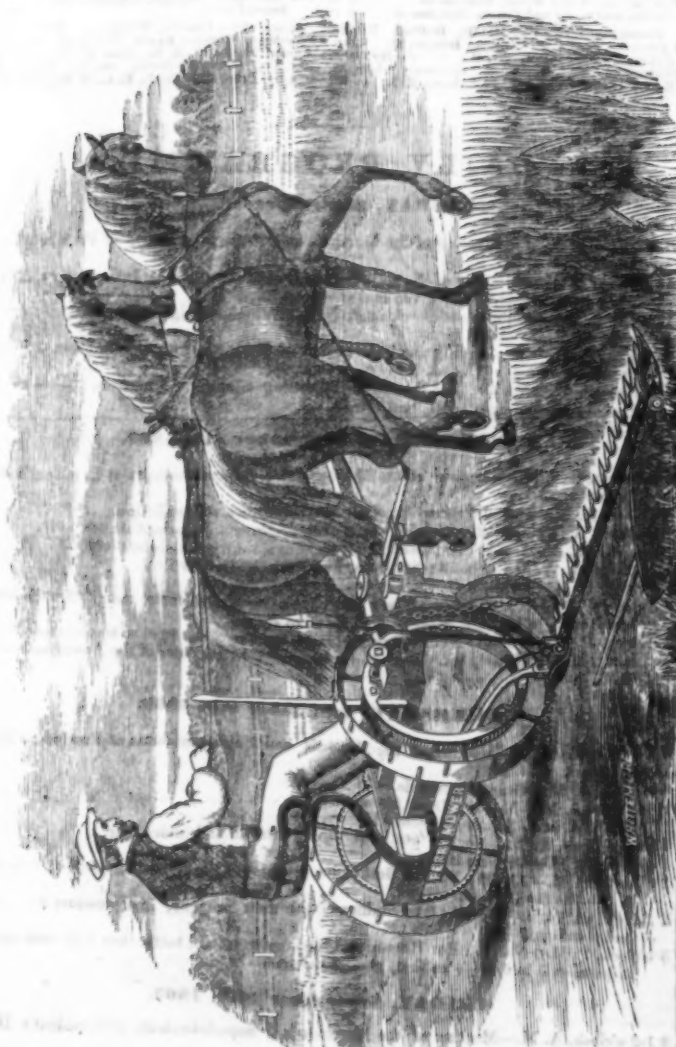
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